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**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend the claims so as to read as follows:**

**1. (Currently Amended) A workpiece transport apparatus comprising:**

at least one pair of transport stages, each transport stage of each said pair of transport stages being disposed in a horizontally opposing manner to the other transport stage of said pair of transport stages and including fluidic expulsion means or simultaneously operable fluidic expulsion means and fluidic suction means for lifting and transporting one or more workpieces in a floating fashion therebetween;

at least one plurality of elevator pins capable of being raised and

lowered disposed on at least one transport stage of each of the at least one pair of transport stages such that when raised, said elevator pins are adapted to surround a periphery of at least one workpiece, and to retain the at least one workpiece in a floating fashion between said pair of opposing transport stages by ~~allowing~~ a tip portion of each of said raised elevator pins ~~to contact~~ contacting with or ~~mate~~ mating with the transport stage opposite to the transport stage from which said at least one plurality of elevator pins are raised; and

at least one rotating mechanism for

rotating the transport stages of each of said at least one pair of transport stages so as to cause the individual transport stages of each of said pairs of transport stages to be inverted relative to one another;